

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The claims are 1-2. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to better define the invention. Support for the claims may be found inter alia in the disclosure at page 4 last paragraph, page 6 lines 13-18, and page 7 line 18 to page 8 line 10.

Reconsideration is expressly requested.

Claims 1-2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Smithe et al. European Patent No. 0 543 493 A1*. Essentially, the Examiner's position is that *Smithe et al.* discloses the method recited in claims 1 and 2 except for the steps of (1) examining the removed blanks to determine any error in placement of printed images on the blanks, and (2) making adjustments to the machine based on this examination for the purpose of preventing subsequent errors on the printing of the image on the blanks, which are considered by the Examiner to be within the skill of the art.

The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As set forth in Claim 1 as amended, Applicant's invention provides a method for producing letter envelopes from a moving web of material in an envelope producing machine having a

printing apparatus. As set forth in Claim 2 as amended, Applicant's invention provides a method for positioning a sequence of printed images in correct positions in relation to a reference edge of an envelope blank cut to a selected size following a printing process by shaping and severing sections of an envelope producing machine having a printing apparatus. In either case, Applicant's invention is directed to the problem of carrying out the various processing steps in the correct phase positions during the processing of a material web to produce envelopes. The imprinting and cutting of the web have to take place in the correct phase positions. Applicant's invention solves this problem with a simple method in which one of the blanks is removed from the machine, the actual spacing of the printed image on the blank from a reference edge of the blank is determined, the difference between the determined actual spacing and a preset spacing value is computed and input as a corrected value to effect the change in relative position of the printing apparatus to the blanks formed by the web.

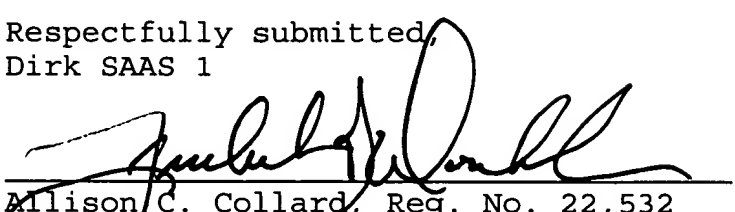
In contrast, the *Smithe* European Patent Application is directed towards an "electronic way" to change the length of envelope blanks. In conventional machines, feed rolls and the knife roll were driven by a common drive shaft with a change gear unit between this drive shaft and the feed rolls. Changing the

gears lead to a different feed rate of the feed rolls per revolution of the cutting roll and therefore to a different length of the cut. *Smithe* shows how that "change of gears" can be simulated electronically by means of servomotors for each of the rollers, controlled by a computer. In *Smithe*, the operator "tells" the computer the wanted length of the blanks and the computer determines the needed rotational speed relationship between feed rollers and knife roller. This approach does not work in the Applicant's method, as Applicant does not want to change the speed relationship between a web and a knife cylinder by rather the phase angle between a blank and a printing cylinder. In other words, whereas *Smithe* "changes gears" Applicant's method changes the relative position of the printing cylinder to the blank (having solved the position of how to cut off the right length already further upstream in the machine). Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that *Smithe* neither discloses nor suggests Applicant's method as recited in Claims 1 and 2 as amended.

In summary, Claims 1 and 2 have been amended. In view of the foregoing and it is respectfully requested that the claims be allowed and that the application be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dirk SAAS 1

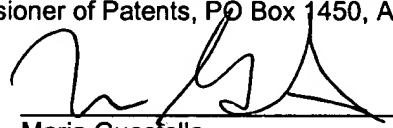
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ENCL. Copy of Petition for One Month Extension of Time

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Va. 22313, on  
SEPTEMBER 17, 2003

  
Maria Guastella